

NEWS ADVISORY

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Department of Criminal Justice Training Will Stage Vehicle/Pedestrian Collision as Part of Training Exercise

New Course a First for Exploring Pedestrian Involvement in Vehicle Crashes

RICHMOND, Ky. – Two pedestrians and one bicycle rider will be run down by oncoming vehicles Friday, June 24, so that law enforcement officers can study the affect the collisions have on their bodies.

Three separate staged collisions between a vehicle, pedestrians and a bicyclist will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the road leading to the driving track at the McKinney Skills Complex in Richmond. The planned wrecks, for which mannequins will be the pedestrians and bicyclist, are part of the Department of Criminal Justice Training's new Pedestrian/Bicycle Collision Investigation Course and are practical exercises for the officers attending the collision training.

This is the DOCJT's first course specifically focused on pedestrian collisions. The class has conducted rigorous, hands-on testing to prepare for Friday's crashes, including building skeletal frames on the mannequins using PVC pipe, comparing friction analysis of humans dragged in a collision setting to that of mannequins and studying bicycle specifics needed for collision analysis.

The collision schedule is:

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.: Impact 1, a small passenger vehicle will strike a standing pedestrian at approximately 30 to 35 mph.

9:10 - 9:15 a.m.: Impact 2, a small passenger vehicle will strike a pedestrian facing away from the vehicle at approximately 35 to 40 mph.

10 - 10:15 a.m.: Impact 3, a bicycle and rider will be rear-ended by a small pick-up truck at approximately 35 to 40 mph.

Course Instructor Richard Parkos will be operating the vehicles.

After the crash, the students will process the collision. They will examine the scene for trace evidence such as clothing imprints and hair left on areas of head impact. An autopsy will be performed on each mannequin using the PVC-pipe skeletons to determine the direction and severity of the force they sustained in the wreck.

"Our goal is to make this exercise as close to reality as possible without hitting real people," Parkos said. "By examining the way in which the PVC pipes are fractured, the students should be able to gain insight into how such a collision would affect a human body."

Crash observers will be given a brief time to view the collision scene before it is secured and turned over to the students for completion of the exercise.

Representatives of the media are invited to attend the crash. Those wishing to witness the collision should be at the crash site no later than 8 a.m. The area will be secured at that time to prepare for the first crash. The area will be reopened between each collision. The McKinney Skills Complex is located on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University.

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